WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An editing apparatus for editing data files recorded in a nonvolatile memory, wherein the nonvolatile memory comprises a data area for recording said data files, each of said data files being recorded in blocks of a predetermined data length along with an attribute file of a predetermined length, and a management area for recording management data for managing said data files, the editing apparatus comprising:

operating means for selecting two of said data files to be combined;

separating means for separating a backward attribute file from a backward side data file of the selected two data files;

editing means for editing the management data recorded in the management area so as to logically link the selected two data files and for editing a forward attribute file corresponding to a forward side data file of the selected two data files; and

recording means for recording the edited management data to the management area and recording the edited forward attribute file to the data area.

2.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein a file allocation table is recorded in the management area.

3.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein reproduction management data representing at least a number of total data files is recorded in the data area.

4.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the attribute files recorded in the data area comprises key data for encrypting a data file, said editing apparatus further comprising means for rewriting key data of an attribute file if a data file corresponding to said key data is edited.

5.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

each of the attribute files recorded in the data area comprises size data representing a total amount of data within a data file; and

said editing means sums the size data of the forward attribute file with size data of the backward attribute file.

6.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising means for designating the separated backward attribute file as a recordable file.

7.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said editing means edits the forward attribute file according to the backward attribute file.

8.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

       each of the data files recorded in the data area comprises at least one part; and

       each of the attribute files recorded in the data area comprises part data representing a number of parts in a data file.

9.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein said editing means edits the forward attribute file according to a sum of the part data of said forward attribute file and the part data of the backward attribute file.

10.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein each of the attribute files recorded in the data area comprises part key data for encrypting a part in a respective data file.

11.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further comprising means for rewriting the part key data of an attribute file if a part corresponding to the respective part key data is edited.

12.   The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein

       each of the attribute files recorded in the data area further comprises encrypting key data for encrypting a data file, and

       the part key data in said each attribute file is encrypted according to the encrypting key data in said each attribute file.

13. An editing method for editing data files recorded in a nonvolatile memory, wherein the nonvolatile memory comprises a data area for recording said data files, each of said data files being recorded in blocks of a predetermined data length along with an attribute file of a predetermined length, and a management area for recording management data for managing said data files, the editing method comprising the steps of:

selecting two of said data files to be combined;

separating a backward attribute file from a backward side data file of the selected two data files;

editing the management data recorded in the management area so as to logically link the selected two data files;

editing a forward attribute file corresponding to a forward side data file of the selected two data files;

recording the edited management data to the management area; and

recording the edited forward attribute file to the data area.

14. An editing apparatus for editing data files recorded in a nonvolatile memory, wherein the nonvolatile memory comprises a data area for recording said data files, each of said data files being recorded in blocks of a predetermined data length along with an attribute file of a predetermined length, and a management area for recording management data for managing said data files, the editing apparatus comprising:

operating means for setting a divide point in a data file recorded in the data area;

editing means for editing, according to said divide point, the management data and an original attribute file corresponding to the data file wherein said divide point is set;

generating means for generating a new attribute file for designating a separate data file on a backward side of the divide point; and

recording means for recording the edited management data to the management area and recording the edited original attribute file to the data area.

15. The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein a file allocation table is recorded in the management area.

16. The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein reproduction management data representing at least a number of total data files is recorded in the data area.

17. The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein each of the attribute files recorded in the data area comprises key data for encrypting a data file, and wherein said editing apparatus further comprises means for rewriting the key data in an attribute file if a data file corresponding to the respective key data is edited.

18. The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

each of the attribute files recorded in the data area comprises size data representing a total amount of data within a data file; and

said editing means edits the size data of the original attribute file according to size data of the new attribute file.

19. The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

each of the data files recorded in the data area comprises at least one part; and

each of the attribute files recorded in the data area comprises part data representing a number of parts in a data file.

20. The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein said editing means edits the part data of the original attribute file in accordance with the part data of the new attribute file.

21. The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein each of the attribute files recorded in the data area comprises part key data for encrypting a part in a respective data file.

22. The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 21, further comprising means for rewriting the part key data of an attribute file if a part corresponding to the respective part key data is edited.

23. The editing apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein:

each of the attribute files recorded in the data area further comprises encrypting key data for encrypting a data file, and

the part key data in said each attribute file is encrypted according to the encrypting key data in said each attribute file.

24. An editing method for editing data files recorded in a nonvolatile memory, wherein the nonvolatile memory comprises a data area for recording said data files, each of said data files being recorded in blocks of a predetermined data length along with an attribute file of a predetermined length, and a management area for recording management data for managing said data files, the editing method comprising the steps of:

setting a divide point in a data file recorded in the data area;

editing, according to said divide point, the management data and an original attribute file corresponding to the data file wherein said divide point is set;

generating a new attribute file for designating a separate data file on a backward side of the divide point;

recording the edited management data to the management area; and

recording the edited original attribute file to the data area.

dc0152